

Montgomery County Universal Preschool Implementation Work Group
October 2, 2008
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Council Office Building, 6th Floor Conference Room
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

MINUTES

Members present:

Kate Garvey
Janine Bacquie
Jane Seffel
Julie Bader
Lindsey Allard
Khadra Ayorinde
Mary Lang
Brad Stewart
Gene Counihan
Traci McLemore
Jackie Lichter
Jose Alvarez- parent representative
Rolf Grafwallner
Clara Floyd

Members not present-

Jennifer Devine

Additional people present:

Vivian Yao, Council Staff
Shondell Foster, Council Staff
Ben Stutz, Legislative Aide to Council Member Valerie Ervin

Ms. Garvey called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Introductions were made by the group members as well as all attendees.

Announcements

- Public Forum- October 15th
- The October 16th meeting will be scheduled for October 23, 2008 to allow for the Work Group to commit only one night per week instead of two nights per week. The Business Plan will be discussed at the October 23rd meeting.

Khadra Ayorinde presented the National Association of Family Child Care accreditation process.

Questions asked:

Janine

Clarification by Rolf

Kate interjected numbers for Montgomery County

Jackie Lichter- how often do you have to go renew your accreditation? Are there levels of to further your

- This is a personal goal that each individual provider has established.

Brad Stewart- does the association recruit members to help grow the accreditation numbers?

- Not right now since all board member positions are volunteer positions.

The Presentation for NAEYC accreditation process will have to be rescheduled. The presenter was unable to attend due to a flat tire.

Provider Panel on personal experience of the accreditation process

- Maria Artola- 10 years of family child care
 - The literacy class changed how she did her program
 - The support for the accreditation process is necessary to help with the accreditation process.
 - Member of the NAFCC
 - Difficult to have infants and preschool kids in the same group but she is determined
- What indicators are being used to determine if kids are ready for kindergarten?
 - How they work together
 - Interact with each other
 - Less focused on academics
 - Bilingual program
- Was some of the play time lost during the accreditation process?
 - Mixed age groups require her to work with all kids and they “work” through play
- Did parents attitudes change when they found out you were accredited?
 - When they were young, not very important but when they are older, they are important.
 - Parents are educated about what it means to be accredited. LOCATE has taken the time to educate the public about the process

What is the number of accredited providers who take Purchase of Care (POC)? 5% of POC users are enrolled in accredited child care providers.

- What are the barriers to becoming accredited?

Harriet Berger- NAEYC accreditation process

- Very labor intensive
- Difficult to get staff qualified for NAEYC standards. The staff has been there very long and many didn't want to move beyond what they have already achieved. Most beneficial was an online program.
- Prepare a classroom portfolio which was very challenging for teachers; encouraging them to continue the courses. Very stressful time.
- Overtime costs were very high.

Teachers that were more educated did the classroom portfolios where the teachers that were less educated did the student portfolio. Obtained a Hoyer grant to make sure the center can maintain the accreditation

Curriculum that is research based- this was not a problem for this center because there was a MCPS program already being implemented in the center.

What be provided to make sure the accreditation process is easier next time?

- substitutes
- additional resources needed

The accreditation process seems to be stressful for both family and center-based care.

The state has issued a grant of 1.5 million to help with providers getting accredited.

Taheera Rashid- MSDE

- 6 locations have gone through the process.
- It can be done in a timely fashion
- Educational requirements were in line with what is available at Bright Eyes.
- Painless, not very long to complete

Benefits- process and standards helped focus organized goals.

- template for the center to work toward
- family can identify quality child care
- children received uniform quality of care
- Increased staff morale, increased team atmosphere

Challenges-

- Push staff to get credentials because if the process was not started, the accreditation process was delayed
- Downcounty was more difficult to get staff to make a commitment to the process

Rolf briefly discussed what the state is doing in response to the increasing need for accreditation among child care providers.

- There have been an increase number of NAEYC to MSDE accreditation due to NAEYC changes to accreditation standards. There is no fee associated with MSDE
- Career credentialing ladder but there is a huge backlog. Applications have increased tremendously therefore the only solution at this point is to outsource the data entry aspects of this task.
- Training Approval- Anyone who provides training in the state needs to go through approval process through the department. There is an application process but the department has improved on this application process from 6 months to 30 days.

Work Group Discussions:

- What resources are needed at the local and state level to increase the number of accredited programs?
 - The group would like to hear what was working that is no longer in place.
 - Resource and Referral needs more money since they help to train staff and gets staff credentialed which moves toward the program becoming accredited.
 - The group recommends additional resources devoted to program dollars- increase local scholarship dollars and technical assistance dollars for programs in the process of accreditation. Capacity building and sustainability dollars to keep accreditation.
 - R&R lost a part-time position working with providers and parents, operate the resource library (currently not in operation without that person).
 - Mentoring project with family child care providers (Hoyer Grant) was an outlet for family child care providers to get out and network, structured mentoring program that helps with the accreditation process.
- Are there policy recommendations that should be made related to the accreditation process?
 - Higher education in the state needs to be more involved in early childhood education
 - Monetary incentives for people who meet the accreditation. (National organizations may be able to work with the local level to create the incentive)
 - How to get POC and WPA to move forward and get families to receive these funds, low income families can still obtain the services
 - Family Child Care tool kits to help family child care, a new product is being developed curricula for family child care that is aligned with the Voluntary State Curriculum but specifically for family child care.
 - Resources that address the information that is provided to the child care providers since the base is changing.
- What are the short term and long term goals for increasing the numbers of accredited providers?
 - Should a number of providers be set for accreditation by X date?
 - How much information is known about parent's picking child care options? What are the drivers?

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ENDED HERE- THE NEXT MEETING WILL DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

- Should certain groups of providers receive the top priority terms of training and professional development support? Do certain groups need more immediate help?

What kind of funding approach/system do members envision can meet the needs of providers over a three to five year period?

- What immediate next steps can the group identify to move forward in terms of training and increasing the numbers of accredited providers? Please identify which steps are cost neutral.

DRAFT